

Remarks

Reconsideration of the rejection of the subject matter of claims 1-5, 8-10, 13-18, 22, 23 and 26 is requested. Claims 6, 11, 19, 21, and 24 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claims.

Claims 1,4,9,14,17 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,263,505 B1 issued to Walker et al. Claims 2,5,10,15,18 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,188,441 B1 issued to Limberg. Claims 3 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al in view of Limberg and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,219,812 issued to Rittenbach.

It is respectfully submitted that Examiner has not fully appreciated the differences between the claimed invention and the cited art. Walker et al teaches a system for providing supplemental information (e.g., from a web site) that is synchronized to a video program. Figure 2 shows an example of the synchronization information (32) and the program identification information (33). It will be noted that the synchronization information is a running time-code that indicates how much the supplemental information should be offset from the start of the video program.

In the present application, the independent claims 1, 4, 14, and 17 all include the limitation that the cluster synchronization information for each cluster is identical, while claims 9 and 22 include the limitation that the cluster synchronization information is the same for at least two of the clusters. As discussed in the present specification at page 15, lines 10-16, the use of one identical cluster synchronization word for the clusters is an important feature of the invention since it avoids the degradation associated with the use of different words for different clusters.

Even if one would assume that the supplemental information could be considered clusters of program channels, which applicants dispute, there is no teaching in Walker et al that the synchronization information could be the same for at least two clusters. In fact, Walker actually teaches away from such a concept by providing that the synchronization information is a running time-code that must be different for each piece of supplemental information. (See, e.g., column 6, line 63 to column 7, line 16.)

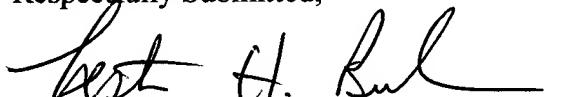
Therefore, it is submitted that Walker et al neither teaches nor renders obvious the invention defined by present independent claims 1,4,9,14,17 and 22. Since all other claims are dependent on one of these claims, they should also be allowable without

the need for discussion of the 103 rejections applied to these claims or rewriting the allowable claims.

Applicants acknowledge citation of the references considered pertinent but not relied upon by the Examiner. It is not believed that these references teach or render obvious the invention defined by the present claims. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,363,061 B1 issued to Yuzawa shows a satellite digital broadcast system where the data stream is divided into packets and a PID is used to identify the packets. The same PID is used to identify data from the same encoder in the transmitter. While not entirely free from ambiguity, it appears that each encoder is used for a different channel. (See column 5, lines 14-45.) There is no teaching of forming clusters of program channels and giving at least two clusters the same synchronization information in accordance with the claimed invention.

Passage to issue is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lester H. Birnbaum
Reg. No. 25830
Attorney for Applicants
610-530-9166

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